

# Drawing an active-looking caption even when not active

---

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20031029-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20031029-00)

October 29, 2003



Raymond Chen

“Why would somebody ever want to do that?” you might ask. Well, this is a common appearance for floating toolbars. (But aside from that case, I can’t think of any other valid reason to draw a window as active even though it isn’t.)

Fortunately this is easy to do. Just add this line to the `WndProc` of our scratch program:

```
case WM_NCACTIVATE: if (wParam == FALSE) wParam = TRUE; break;
```

This says, “If Windows asks me to paint my caption bar in the inactive state, turn around and draw it in the active state.”

[Raymond Chen](#)

**Follow**

